

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 ACDA-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2048

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12933

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UY, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF URUGUAYAN HONORARY CONSUL IN
BERLIN

REF: (A) USBERLIN 1370; (B) STATE 160325; (C) BONN
10907; (D) STATE 157147

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE THREE ALLIED BONN GROUP REPRESENTATIVES HAVE AGREED TO MAKE ONE MORE EFFORT TO PERSUADE THE URUGUAYAN EMBASSY TO RECOMMEND TO MONTEVIDEO THAT THE NOMINATION OF KARSTEN KLINGBEIL AS HONORARY CONSUL IN BERLIN BE WITHDRAWN. REPS AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THIS APPROACH IS UNSUCCESSFUL, THE ALLIES SHOULD PROCEED PROMPTLY TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION. END SUMMARY.

2. DISCUSSION OF THE KLINGBEIL SAGA BY THE TRIPARTITE BONN GROUP REPS WAS RESUMED ON JULY 29 AND CARRIED OVER TO AUGUST 8. AT THE JULY 29 MEETING, ALL REPS AGREED THAT THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY HEAD OF CHANCELLARY HERZ (REFTEL A) DID NOT ADD MUCH TO WHAT WE ALREADY KNEW ABOUT THE BASIS FOR THE SENAT'S OBJECTIONS TO KLINGBEIL AND IN FACT CONFIRMED THAT THERE WAS NO
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CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION PENDING AGAINST HIM.

3. UK REP (CROMARTIE) REPORTED INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM LONDON. THE FCO, HAVING RESEARCHED THE QUESTION, POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS EXTREMELY RARE FOR THE UK TO OBJECT TO A CANDIDATE FOR AN HONORARY CONSUL. IF THERE ARE OBJECTIONS, THE UK MAKES INFORMAL APPROACHES AND THE SENDING COUNTRY INVARIABLY IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAWS THE NOMINATION. SHOULD THE UK EVER REJECT A NOMINATION, IT WOULD RELY ON ARTICLE 23 OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION AND GIVE NO REASON. THE FCO WONDERED WHETHER ANOTHER INFORMAL APPROACH TO THE URUGUAYANS SHOULD NOT BE MADE. US REP REPORTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT ALSO FAVORED ANOTHER ATTEMPT WITH THE URUGUAYANS. THE FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) SAID THAT IF THERE WERE NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS, THE FRENCH WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT THE KLINGBEIL NOMINATION BUT THAT HE HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO ANOTHER TRY WITH THE URUGUAYANS. CROMARTIE SEEMED ON JULY 29 TO FAVOR REJECTING THE NOMINATION ON THE BASIS OF THE SENAT'S ATTITUDE, WHILE THE US REP SAID HE WAS STILL OPERATING ON THE BASIS OF INSTRUCTIONS (REF D) THAT THE NOMINATION SHOULD BE APPROVED IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE SENAT SEEMED UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. IN THE ABSENCE OF THE UK REP (MINEEFF) WHO HAD HAD THE MOST PRIOR CONTACT WITH THE URUGUAYANS, IT WAS AGREED TO CARRY OVER THE DISCUSSION.

4. ON AUGUST 8, MINEEFF DESCRIBED THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE URUGUAYAN EMBASSY IN BONN AS "CLOSE BUT HARDLY HAPPY." FROM ABOUT JANUARY UNTIL MID JUNE, HE HAD SEEN THE URUGUAYAN CHARGE ALMOST WEEKLY OR AT LEAST FORTNIGHTLY. THE LATTER HAD REPEATEDLY TURNED DOWN MINEEFF'S SUGGESTION, MADE ON BEHALF OF ALL THREE ALLIES

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THAT HE RECOMMEND THAT MONTEVIDEO WITHDRAW THE KLINGBEIL NOMINATION, STATING THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE SUCH A RECOMMENDATION TO MONTEVIDEO WITHOUT WRITTEN EVIDENCE. MEANWHILE, MINEEFF CONTINUED TO ASSURE THE CHARGE THAT THE MATTER WAS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION. ABOUT MID-JUNE, THE IMPORTUNINGS FROM THE URUGUAYANS STOPPED ALTOGETHER, LEAVING THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LOST INTEREST IN THE MATTER. MINEEFF SPECULATED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THEY HAD DISCOVERED THAT THERE WAS SOME BASIS IN FACT FOR THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST KLINGBEIL. THE US REP AGREED THAT THAT WAS THE MORE LIKELY EXPLANATION, ALTHOUGH ANOTHER HYPOTHESIS WAS THAT THE URUGUAYANS HAD DECIDED IT WAS UNDIGNIFIED FOR THEM TO HAVE TO CONTINUE TO DEMAND ON A WEEKLY BASIS THAT WE ANSWER THEIR THREE DIPLOMATIC NOTES AND HAD DECIDED SIMPLY TO WAIT US OUT. HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT ALLEGATIONS OF "SHADY BUSINESS PRACTICES" MIGHT COME AS NO SURPRISE TO THE URUGUAYANS IF THERE WERE ANY BASIS IN FACT FOR THE SUSPICIONS THAT KLINGBEIL MAY HAVE PAID HANDSOMELY FOR THE NOMINATION.

5. CROMARTIE SUGGESTED THAT, IN THE LIGHT OF
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MINEEFF'S BRIEFING, IT WOULD IN FACT BE DESIRABLE TO MAKE ONE MORE EFFORT TO HAVE THE NOMINATION WITHDRAWN. THE US AND FRENCH REPS AGREED, WITH THE PROVISO THAT WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING IN ADVANCE AS TO WHAT OUR DECISION WOULD BE IN THE EVENT THE URUGUAYAN EMBASSY CONTINUED TO REFUSE TO RECOMMEND THAT THE NOMINATION BE WITHDRAWN. CROMARTIE ACCEPTED THIS, AND AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, HE AGREED WITH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH VIEWS THAT, IF THE URUGUAYANS REFUSE TO RECONSIDER, THE ALLIES MUST GO AHEAD PROMPTLY AND APPROVE THE NOMINATION.

6. MINEEFF WILL MAKE THE FOLLOW-UP APPROACH TO THE URUGUAYANS AS SOON AS HE RETURNS FROM LEAVE IN ABOUT

TEN DAYS.
HILLENBRAND

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